

California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center
Elko District
Bureau of Land Management

INTERPRETIVE CENTER BRIEFING

I. Introduction

Congressional legislation established the California Trail Interpretive Center "...to facilitate the interpretation of the history of development and use of trails in settling the western portion of the United States..." As the Center's Interpretive Design Plan is implemented over the next several years, the 16,000 square foot structure, Interpretive Plaza, and 40 Acre site will blossom into a unique environment that will inspire visitors of all ages and backgrounds.

Visitors will have the opportunity to experience multimedia exhibits, life size dioramas, and video productions. They will be able to hike the trails, attend interpretive programs, and speak with knowledgeable staff. From this experience they will gain an understanding of what is one the most formative events in American history; Westward Expansion. An understanding of how these emigrants contributed to the development of America, the American character, and the American identity will foster a sense of stewardship towards preserving historic and cultural resources for the inspiration of future generations.

The California National Historic Trail Interpretive Center will be a world class interpretive facility for the American people, a source of civic pride, an economic engine for the region, and a show case for the BLM.

II. Authority

FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT

SECTION 3 Recreation Fee Authority

(f) Standard Amenity Recreation Fee - The secretary may charge a standard amenity recreation fee...but only at the following:

(3) A DESTINATION VISITOR OR INTERPRETIVE CENTER THAT PROVIDES A BROAD RANGE OF INTERPRETIVE SERVICES, PROGRAMS, AND MEDIA

III. Contributing Partners

- A. State of Nevada: \$3 Million
- B. City of Elko: \$2 Million
- C. Elko County: \$1 Million
- D. Federal Government authorized up to \$12 million

IV. Time Line

- A. October 2008 -- Public briefings begin.

- B. November 2008 –District Manager, Ken Miller makes presentation at the Recreation Resource Advisory Council outlining the public involvement process.
- C. November 2008 – The Trail Center Business Plan (business plan) is complete and approved by Elko District Manager, Ken Miller.
- D. August 2009 — Formal public involvement process begins to address options associated with establishing the Trail Center as a fee site.
- E. September 2009 – Implement outreach plan to inform public about fee issue and begin compiling public comments. (See part V, Draft Outreach Plan below).
- F. October 2009 – BLM/Elko District Office with assistance of Washington Office and Nevada State Office will review public comments and update business plan.
- G. October 2009 – Elko District Manager reviews/approves public comments and updated business plan.
- H. November 2009 – Recreation Resource Advisory Council reviews public comments and proposal and makes recommendation on fee site options.
- I. June 2010 – Decision to establish or not to establish the California Trail Center established as a fee site.
- J. October 2011 -- Fee comparability study begins.
- K. March 2012 -- California Trail Center Standard Amenity Fee Plan approved by Recreation Resource Advisory Council.
- L. June 2012 -- Fees collection plan executed at California Trail Center

V. Outreach Plan

- A. Web site
 - a. Business plan posted on Elko district website.
 - b. E-mail comments compiled.
 - c. News releases direct public to website to make comments
 - d. News releases, flyers, and notices of public meetings and events posted on website.
- B. Hard copies of Business Plan available at the Elko District Office, at the California Trail Center and at all activities hosted or attended by California Trail Center Staff
- C. New releases issued state wide
- D. Posters & Flyers of public meeting widely distributed in Elko County
 - a. Northeast Nevada Museum
 - b. Western Folklife Center
 - c. Elko Visitor Convention and Visitor Authority
 - d. Post offices in Elko, Spring Creek, Carlin, Jackpot, Wendover
- E. Interested parties and Groups
 - a. Elko City Council
 - b. Elko County Board of Commissioners
 - c. Elko County Marketing Committee
 - d. California Trail Advisory Council
 - e. Humboldt High Road
 - f. California Trail Center Volunteers
- F. Public Meeting May 2009